



BELMONT

Middlesex County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Belmont is a pleasant, residential suburb which has unexpectedly achieved international notoriety as the childhood home of the bride of the Crown Prince of Japan. Residents report polite but persistent Japanese tourists knocking on likely doors hoping to discover the Princess's former house, and international tour guides persist in planning tours of the affluent community.

Before the Prince found his Cinderella, Belmont was a quiet community on the western suburban corridor of Boston, situated on the divide between the watersheds of the Charles and the Mystic Rivers. The town was largely agricultural until the early 19th century when the turnpike and railroad linked the area to Boston, stimulating the creation of several large suburban estates. Although there were extensive market gardens in Belmont, the town underwent rapid subdivision development when trolley routes connected it directly to Boston. A Belmont farmer was the first to import and breed Holstein cows, and historians note that the conservatories on an estate in Belmont sparked the first use of hothouses to grow fruit and vegetables commercially. This was done so successfully that huge Belmont market gardens under glass produced enough fruit to make the town first in the country in the value of its fruit products and second in the country for vegetables during some years in the 19th century.

A small town of about 4.6 square miles, Belmont residents are proud of their quiet, well-mannered community and appear unexcited by its present fame.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Arlington on the north, Cambridge on the east, Watertown on the south, Waltham on the west, and Lexington on the northwest. Belmont is 7 miles northwest of Boston, 21 miles south of Lowell, 40 miles southeast of Fitchburg, and 220 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 4.71 sq. miles

Land Area: 4.66 sq. miles

Population: 24,720

Density: 5,305 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Boston WSO Station)

Normal temperature in January.....28.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....73.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....41.5"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Lexington

Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (617) 489-8200

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Executive Secretary

Representative Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1859

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

| | Number | % | |
|-------------------|--------|------|---|
| Total Registered | 16,275 | | |
| Democrats | 5,015 | 30.8 | % |
| Republicans | 1,814 | 11.1 | % |
| Other parties | 5 | 0.0 | % |
| Unenrolled Voters | 9,441 | 58.0 | % |

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Belmont town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

| Subject | Number | Percent | Subject | Number | Percent |
|---|--------|---------|--|--------|---------|
| Total population..... | 24,194 | 100.0 | HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE | | |
| SEX AND AGE | | | Total population..... | 24,194 | 100.0 |
| Male..... | 11,292 | 46.7 | Hispanic or Latino (of any race)..... | 440 | 1.8 |
| Female..... | 12,902 | 53.3 | Mexican..... | 67 | 0.3 |
| Under 5 years..... | 1,415 | 5.8 | Puerto Rican..... | 86 | 0.4 |
| 5 to 9 years..... | 1,564 | 6.5 | Cuban..... | 47 | 0.2 |
| 10 to 14 years..... | 1,606 | 6.6 | Other Hispanic or Latino..... | 240 | 1.0 |
| 15 to 19 years..... | 1,225 | 5.1 | Not Hispanic or Latino..... | 23,754 | 98.2 |
| 20 to 24 years..... | 765 | 3.2 | White alone..... | 21,726 | 89.8 |
| 25 to 34 years..... | 3,249 | 13.4 | RELATIONSHIP | | |
| 35 to 44 years..... | 4,249 | 17.6 | Total population..... | 24,194 | 100.0 |
| 45 to 54 years..... | 3,681 | 15.2 | In households..... | 23,882 | 98.7 |
| 55 to 59 years..... | 1,390 | 5.7 | Householder..... | 9,732 | 40.2 |
| 60 to 64 years..... | 1,002 | 4.1 | Spouse..... | 5,342 | 22.1 |
| 65 to 74 years..... | 1,897 | 7.8 | Child..... | 6,887 | 28.5 |
| 75 to 84 years..... | 1,503 | 6.2 | Own child under 18 years..... | 5,330 | 22.0 |
| 85 years and over..... | 649 | 2.7 | Other relatives..... | 726 | 3.0 |
| Median age (years)..... | 40.4 | (X) | Under 18 years..... | 116 | 0.5 |
| 18 years and over..... | 18,707 | 77.3 | Nonrelatives..... | 1,195 | 4.9 |
| Male..... | 8,475 | 35.0 | Unmarried partner..... | 354 | 1.5 |
| Female..... | 10,232 | 42.3 | In group quarters..... | 312 | 1.3 |
| 21 years and over..... | 18,268 | 75.5 | Institutionalized population..... | 274 | 1.1 |
| 62 years and over..... | 4,631 | 19.1 | Noninstitutionalized population..... | 38 | 0.2 |
| 65 years and over..... | 4,049 | 16.7 | HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE | | |
| Male..... | 1,616 | 6.7 | Total households..... | 9,732 | 100.0 |
| Female..... | 2,433 | 10.1 | Family households (families)..... | 6,454 | 66.3 |
| RACE | | | With own children under 18 years..... | 3,021 | 31.0 |
| One race..... | 23,854 | 98.6 | Married-couple family..... | 5,342 | 54.9 |
| White..... | 22,062 | 91.2 | With own children under 18 years..... | 2,544 | 26.1 |
| Black or African American..... | 266 | 1.1 | Female householder, no husband present..... | 857 | 8.8 |
| American Indian and Alaska Native..... | 31 | 0.1 | With own children under 18 years..... | 390 | 4.0 |
| Asian..... | 1,393 | 5.8 | Nonfamily households..... | 3,278 | 33.7 |
| Asian Indian..... | 183 | 0.8 | Householder living alone..... | 2,524 | 25.9 |
| Chinese..... | 695 | 2.8 | Householder 65 years and over..... | 1,156 | 11.9 |
| Filipino..... | 32 | 0.1 | Households with individuals under 18 years..... | 3,121 | 32.1 |
| Japanese..... | 212 | 0.9 | Households with individuals 65 years and over..... | 2,860 | 29.4 |
| Korean..... | 205 | 0.8 | Average household size..... | 2.45 | (X) |
| Vietnamese..... | 11 | - | Average family size..... | 3.01 | (X) |
| Other Asian ¹ | 65 | 0.3 | HOUSING OCCUPANCY | | |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander..... | 2 | - | Total housing units..... | 9,880 | 100.0 |
| Native Hawaiian..... | - | - | Occupied housing units..... | 9,732 | 97.5 |
| Guamanian or Chamorro..... | 1 | - | Vacant housing units..... | 248 | 2.5 |
| Samoa..... | - | - | For seasonal, recreational, or | | |
| Other Pacific Islander ² | 1 | - | occasional use..... | 44 | 0.4 |
| Some other race..... | 100 | 0.4 | Homeowner vacancy rate (percent)..... | 0.5 | (X) |
| Two or more races..... | 340 | 1.4 | Rental vacancy rate (percent)..... | 1.7 | (X) |
| <i>Race alone or in combination with one</i> | | | HOUSING TENURE | | |
| <i>or more other races: ³</i> | | | Occupied housing units..... | 9,732 | 100.0 |
| White..... | 22,368 | 92.5 | Owner-occupied housing units..... | 5,909 | 60.7 |
| Black or African American..... | 331 | 1.4 | Renter-occupied housing units..... | 3,823 | 39.3 |
| American Indian and Alaska Native..... | 85 | 0.4 | Average household size of owner-occupied units..... | 2.71 | (X) |
| Asian..... | 1,588 | 6.6 | Average household size of renter-occupied units..... | 2.06 | (X) |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander..... | 10 | - | | | |
| Some other race..... | 180 | 0.7 | | | |

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 262

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 4

Federal (Section 8): 45



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Belmont is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 2 and 60.

Rail

Commuter rail service is available to North Station, Boston, from Waverly (travel time 17 min.; no MBTA parking) and Belmont Center (travel time 15 min.; no MBTA parking). The Springfield Terminal Railway provides freight rail service in Belmont. Contact number: (508) 663-1073.

Bus

Belmont is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), which provides fixed route service to neighboring communities and to Alewife and Harvard Stations on the Red Line. The MBTA also provides THE RIDE, a paratransit service for the elderly and disabled.

Other

L.G. Hanscom Field, a Reliever Airport with Commercial Service (CR) in Bedford, has a 5,106' asphalt runway and a 7,001' concrete and asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision. The MBTA provides bus service to Hanscom Field from Alewife Station on the Red Line via Belmont.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Mclean Hospital

Long Term Care

Belmont Manor Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.